

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated on the listing that follows, which supersedes and replaces all prior listings of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A magnetic suspension system comprising

a guideway comprising one or more ferromagnetic rails, at least one of which further comprises windings for a linear synchronous motor;

5 a vehicle comprising one or more arrays of magnets, ~~at least one of which~~ one or more arrays of magnets effects:

(i) magnetic attraction forces across a substantially planar gap to at least one guideway rail;

10 (ii) lateral restoring forces across said same substantially planar gap on the vehicle in response to electrical current in one or more of the windings of said linear synchronous motor sufficient to provide guidance for the vehicle without the need for additional structure to provide such guidance; and

(iii) longitudinal forces across said same substantially planar gap on the vehicle in response to electrical current in one or more of the windings of said linear synchronous motor;

15 at least one control coil wound around the magnets effecting a substantially stable vertical gap.

2. (Original) A magnetic suspension system according to claim 1, comprising a first control system effective for controlling the coils.

3. (Original) A magnetic suspension system according to claim 2, comprising a second control system effective for driving the windings of the synchronous motor.

4. (Currently Amended) A magnetic suspension system comprising

a guideway comprising one or more ferromagnetic rails, at least one of which further comprises windings for a linear synchronous motor;

5 a vehicle comprising one or more arrays of magnets, ~~at least one of which~~ one or more arrays of magnets effects:

(i) magnetic attraction forces across a substantially planar gap to at least one guideway rail;

10 (ii) lateral restoring forces across said same substantially planar gap on the vehicle ~~in response to electrical current in one or more of the windings of said linear synchronous motor~~, sufficient to provide guidance for the vehicle without the need for additional structure to provide such guidance; and

(iii) longitudinal forces across said same substantially planar gap on the vehicle ~~in response to electrical current in one or more of the windings of said linear synchronous motor~~;

15 at least one control coil wound around the magnets effecting a substantially stable vertical gap, and

at least one pair of magnets disposed in a lateral offset manner to damp any of sway and yaw forces.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising one or more devices disposed on the vehicle effective to damp any of heave, roll, sway and yaw oscillations.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a linear synchronous motor effective to produce substantially smooth forces without producing substantial cogging forces.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a position sensing system effective to determine the position of the vehicle with respect to the guideway.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the array of magnets further comprises end magnets of a size and location effecting minimal end effects and cogging forces.

9. (Currently Amended) A magnetic suspension system comprising

a guideway comprising one or more ferromagnetic rails, at least one of which further comprises windings for a linear synchronous motor;

a vehicle comprising one or more arrays of magnets, ~~at least one of which~~ one or more
8 arrays of magnets effects:

(i) magnetic attraction forces across a substantially planar gap to at least one guideway rail;

(ii) lateral restoring forces across said same substantially planar gap on the vehicle
10 ~~in response to electrical current in one or more of the windings of said linear synchronous motor~~ sufficient to provide guidance for the vehicle without the need for additional structure to provide such guidance; and

(iii) longitudinal forces across said same substantially planar gap on the vehicle in
response to electrical current in one or more of the windings of ~~said linear synchronous motor~~;

15 at least one control coil wound around the magnets effecting a substantially stable vertical gap,

wherein the array of magnets further comprises end magnets of a size and location effecting minimal end effects and cogging forces, and

wherein the array of magnets further comprises at least one pair of magnets disposed at a lateral offset.

10. (Original) The system of claim 8, further comprising one or more devices disposed on the vehicle effective to damp any of heave, sway and yaw oscillations.

11. (Currently Amended) A magnetic suspension system comprising

a guideway comprising one or more ferromagnetic rails, at least one of which further comprises windings for a linear synchronous motor;

5 a vehicle comprising one or more arrays of magnets, ~~at least one of which~~ one or more arrays of magnets effects:

(i) magnetic attraction forces across a substantially planar gap to at least one guideway rail;

(ii) lateral restoring forces across said same substantially planar gap on the vehicle in response to electrical current in one or more of the windings of said linear synchronous motor sufficient to provide guidance for the vehicle without the need for additional structure to provide such guidance; and

(iii) longitudinal forces across said same substantially planar gap on the vehicle in response to electrical current in one or more of the windings of said linear synchronous motor;

10 a system effective to substantially stabilize a vertical gap,

wherein said one or more arrays of magnets comprise any of superconducting magnets and/or permanent magnets.

12. (Original) A system according to claim 11, comprising a winding control system effective to produce acceleration forces.

13. (Currently Amended) A magnetic suspension system comprising

a guideway comprising one or more ferromagnetic rails, at least one of which further comprises windings for a linear synchronous motor;

a vehicle comprising at least one array of magnets, ~~at least one of which~~ one or more

5 arrays of magnets effects:

(i) magnetic attraction forces across a substantially planar gap to at least one guideway rail;

(ii) lateral restoring forces across said same substantially planar gap on the
~~vehicle in response to electrical current in one or more of the windings of said~~
 10 ~~linear synchronous motor~~ sufficient to provide guidance for the vehicle without the need for additional structure to provide such guidance; and

(iii) longitudinal forces across said same substantially planar gap on the vehicle
 in response to electrical current in one or more of the windings ~~of said linear~~
~~synchronous motor~~;

15 at least one control coil wound around the magnets effecting a substantially stable vertical gap;

a first control system effective for controlling the coils;

a second control system effective for driving the windings effective to produce acceleration of the vehicle; and

wherein said at least one array of magnets comprises any of superconducting magnets and/or permanent magnets.

14. (Currently Amended) A magnetic suspension system comprising

a guideway comprising one or more ferromagnetic rails, at least one of which further comprises windings for a linear synchronous motor;

a vehicle comprising one or more arrays of magnets, ~~at least one of which~~ one or more
 5 arrays of magnets effects:

(i) magnetic attraction forces across a substantially planar gap to at least one guideway rail;

(ii) lateral restoring forces across said same substantially planar gap on the vehicle in response to electrical current in one or more of the windings of said linear synchronous motor sufficient to allow at least one of negotiating turns and resisting lateral wind force; and

(iii) longitudinal forces across said same substantially planar gap on the vehicle in response to electrical current in one or more of the windings of said linear synchronous motor;

at least one control coil wound around the magnets effecting a substantially stable vertical gap.

15. (Currently Amended) A magnetic suspension system comprising

a guideway comprising one or more ferromagnetic rails, at least one of which further comprises windings for a linear synchronous motor;

a vehicle comprising one or more arrays of magnets, ~~at least one of which~~ one or more arrays of magnets effects:

(i) magnetic attraction forces across a substantially planar gap to at least one guideway rail;

(ii) lateral restoring forces across said same substantially planar gap on the vehicle in response to electrical current in one or more of the windings of said linear synchronous motor sufficient to allow at least one of negotiating turns and resisting lateral wind force; and

(iii) longitudinal forces across said same substantially planar gap on the vehicle in
response to electrical current in one or more of the windings of said linear
~~synchronous motor~~;

15 a system effective to substantially stabilize a vertical gap; and

wherein said one or more arrays of magnets comprise any of superconducting magnets
and/or permanent magnets.

16. (Currently Amended) A magnetic suspension system comprising

a guideway comprising one or more ferromagnetic rails, at least one of which further
comprises windings for a linear synchronous motor;

a vehicle comprising at least one array of magnets, at least one of which one or more
arrays of magnets effects:

(i) magnetic attraction forces across a substantially planar gap to at least one
guideway rail;

(ii) lateral restoring forces across said same substantially planar gap on the vehicle
in response to electrical current in one or more of the windings of said linear
~~synchronous motor~~ sufficient to allow at least one of negotiating turns and
resisting lateral wind force; and

(iii) longitudinal forces across said same substantially planar gap on the vehicle in
response to electrical current in one or more of the windings of said linear
~~synchronous motor~~;

at least one control coil wound around the magnets effecting a substantially stable vertical
gap;

a first control system effective for controlling the coils;

a second control system effective for driving the windings effective to produce acceleration of the vehicle; and

wherein said at least one array of magnets comprises any of superconducting magnets and/or permanent magnets.

17. (Currently Amended) A magnetic suspension system comprising

a guideway comprising one or more ferromagnetic rails, at least one of which further comprises windings for a linear synchronous motor;

a vehicle comprising one or more arrays of magnets, ~~at least one of which~~ one or more arrays of magnets effects:

(i) magnetic attraction forces across a substantially planar gap to at least one guideway rail;

(ii) lateral restoring forces across said same substantially planar gap on the vehicle ~~in response to electrical current in one or more of the windings of said linear synchronous motor;~~ and

(iii) longitudinal forces across said same substantially planar gap on the vehicle ~~in response to electrical current in one or more of the windings of said linear synchronous motor;~~

at least one control coil wound around the magnets effecting a substantially stable vertical gap; and

at least one pair of magnets disposed in a lateral offset manner to damp any of sway and yaw forces.

18. (Currently Amended) A magnetic suspension system comprising

a guideway comprising one or more ferromagnetic rails, at least one of which further comprises windings for a linear synchronous motor;

5 a vehicle comprising one or more arrays of magnets, ~~at least one of which~~ one or more arrays of magnets effects:

(i) magnetic attraction forces across a substantially planar gap to at least one guideway rail;

(ii) lateral restoring forces across said same substantially planar gap on the vehicle ~~in response to electrical current in one or more of the windings of said linear~~ synchronous motor; and

(iii) longitudinal forces across said same substantially planar gap on the vehicle in response to electrical current in one or more of the windings ~~of said linear~~ synchronous motor;

10 at least one control coil wound around the magnets effecting a substantially stable vertical gap

wherein the array of magnets further comprises end magnets of a size and location effecting minimal end effects and cogging forces,

wherein the array of magnets further comprises at least one pair of magnets disposed at a lateral offset.